

# Australian Entomological Magazine

Aust. ent. Mag.

Volume 4, Part 1

July, 1977

## BUTTERFLIES OF THE BLACK MOUNTAIN - MT. PAINTER AREA, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

By David Ferguson  
15 Bussell Crescent, Cook, A.C.T. 2614

### Abstract

The flight periods of butterflies from the Black Mountain - Mt. Painter area of the Australian Capital Territory are given for the period 1972-77.

### Introduction

The Black Mountain - Mt. Painter area lies near the Civic Centre of Canberra. It includes the Black Mountain Reserve, about 3 km north-west of Civic Centre, and the area around Mt. Painter, about 3 km from Black Mountain and about 6 km from Civic Centre, together with the area between the two mountains. The vegetation varies from sclerophyll forest, with scrubby undergrowth on Black Mountain, to almost treeless pasture on and around Mt. Painter. The height of Black Mountain is 812 m (2660 ft) and that of Mt. Painter is 743 m (2437 ft). The rainfall of the area averages 64 cm (25.2 in) per annum, with an average monthly temperature range of 6.3°C to 19.5°C.

This list has been compiled from observations taken over the period from 1972 to early 1977. Of the 80 odd species known from the A.C.T., 44 have been recorded from the Black Mountain - Mt. Painter area by the author.

### List of species

#### HESPERIIDAE

*Netrocoryne repanda repanda* C. & R. Felder. Three male specimens have been taken on Mt. Painter, one in March 1974 and two in January 1977.

*Trapezites phigalioides* Waterhouse. One male was taken on Mt. Painter in October 1976.

*Trapezites phigalia phigalia* (Hewitson). Commonly observed in October and November on Black Mountain. A male was taken in November 1975 on Mt. Painter.

*Trapezites luteus leucus* Waterhouse. On Mt. Painter it is common during October and November, but less so in February and March. It has not been observed on Black Mountain.

*Dispar compacta* (Butler). One male was taken in February 1973 on Black Mountain.

*Toxidia peron* (Latreille). Two males were taken on Mt. Painter and Black Mountain in December 1976. It occurs commonly on the coast and tablelands (Common and Waterhouse, 1972).

*Taractrocera papyria papyria* (Boisduval). September to April.

*Ocybadistes walkeri sothis* Waterhouse. September to April.

#### PAPILIONIDAE

*Papilio aegeus aegeus* Donovan. November to March.

*Papilio anactus* W. S. Macleay. November to March.

*Papilio demoleus sthenelus* W. S. Macleay. October to March. Adults are quite abundant during October to November, but less so from December to March.

#### PIERIDAE

*Catopsilia pyranthe crokera* (W. S. Macleay). One female of the pale form was taken in April 1976 on Black Mountain by M. Bink.

*Eurema smilax* (Donovan). November to February. Usually it is uncommon.

*Delias aganippe* (Donovan). Adults can be found on the wing from September to November and again from January to March.

*Delias harpalyce* (Donovan). A common species, found from September to November and again from January to March.

*Delias nigrina* (Fabricius). A number of both sexes were taken flying around mistletoe on Mt. Painter from the end of November to the beginning of December 1974. Another was taken in February 1975 on Mt. Painter by M. Bink. Common and Waterhouse (1972) have indicated that it is essentially a coastal species, not extending far inland. It has not previously been recorded from the A.C.T.

*Anaphaeis java teutonia* (Fabricius). Often seen in large migratory flights from September to December.

*Pieris rapae rapae* (Linnaeus). August to May.

#### NYMPHALIDAE

*Danaus plexippus plexippus* (Linnaeus). Uncommon species, October to March.

*Danaus chrysippus petilia* (Stoll). This species was very common in the period October 1973 to February 1974. Since then only two have been taken, in March 1976 and October 1975.

*Euploea core corinna* (W. S. Macleay). This species was very common from November 1973 to February 1974. None has been taken since.

*Geitoneura acantha acantha* (Donovan). December to March.

*Geitoneura klugii klugii* (Guerin-Meneville). December to March.

*Heteronympha merope merope* (Fabricius). Late October to early May.

*Heteronympha penelope penelope* Waterhouse. December to March.

*Polyura pyrrhus sempronius* (Fabricius). November to April. It is common in the sclerophyll forest of Black Mountain. Males have been taken hill-topping on Mt. Painter.

*Hypolimnias bolina nerina* (Fabricius). A single female was captured in January 1975 on Black Mountain. Common and Waterhouse (1972) state that it is

unusually rare near Sydney and that an adult had been taken in eastern Victoria.

*Vanessa kershawi* (McCoy). September to May.

*Vanessa itea* (Fabricius). September to May.

*Precis villida calybe* (Godart). September to May.

### LYCAENIDAE

*Jalmenus evagoras evagoras* (Donovan). This species has been taken abundantly during December and January on Black Mountain, especially in areas containing its food plant (*Acacia decurrens*). However, none has been observed on Mt. Painter.

*Jalmenus ictinus* Hewitson. December to March. Pupae obtained from Mt. Painter took 12 days to emerge.

*Ogyris olane ocela* Waterhouse. Males have been observed on top of Black Mountain from November to January. One male was taken on Mt. Painter in December 1976.

*Hypochrysops delicia delos* (Waterhouse and Lyell). Males have been taken hill-topping on Mt. Painter in December and January. The author has not captured them on Black Mountain although they are known to occur there.

*Pseudodipsas cuprea* Sands. Males have been observed on both Mt. Painter and Black Mountain during December and January.

*Lucia limbaria* Swainson. September to November and January to March. McCubbin (1971) notes that it is usually a scarce butterfly but it is very common on Mt. Painter. It has not been observed on Black Mountain.

*Nacaduba biocellata biocellata* (C. & R. Felder). December to March.

*Theclinesstes onycha onycha* (Hewitson). Taken in December and January from Mt. Painter and Black Mountain.

*Lampides boeticus* (Linnaeus). September to April.

*Neolucia agricola agricola* (Westwood and Hewitson). During December large numbers have been observed on Black Mountain, but none has been observed on Mt. Painter.

*Neolucia serpentata serpentata* (Herrich-Schaffer). September to April.

*Zizina otis labradus* (Godart). September to May.

*Candalides acastus* (Cox). August to September and December to January. Common on Black Mountain but not seen on Mt. Painter.

*Candalides hyacinthinus hyacinthinus* (Semper). August to February. Common and Waterhouse (1972) note that it appears in August, even in the A.C.T. It is common on Black Mountain where its food plant (*Cassytha* sp.) is abundant, but it has not been seen on Mt. Painter.

### Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Dr R. L. Kitching for confirming the identification of a number of specimens.

### References

- Common, I. F. B. and Waterhouse, D. F., 1972. *Butterflies of Australia*. Angus and Robertson, Sydney. vii + 498 pp.
- McCubbin, C., 1971. *Australian butterflies*. Nelson, Melbourne. xxxi + 206 pp., illustr.